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IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT

DIVISION TWO

HOWARD MILTON LEWIS et al.,

Plaintiffs and Appellants,

v.

DOUBLE ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH
OF COMPTON CALIFORNIA,

Defendant and Respondent.

B280792

(Los Angeles County
Super. Ct. No. TC026064)

APPEAL from a judgment of the Superior Court of
Los Angeles County. John Shepard Wiley, Jr., Judge. Affirmed.

Law Offices of Barbara A. Jackson and Barbara A. Jackson
for Plaintiffs and Appellants.

Kinley Law Practice and Matthew L. Kinley for Defendant
and Respondent.

This case involves claims by appellants¹ against respondent Double Rock Baptist Church of Compton California (Double Rock). Appellants appeal from a judgment of dismissal following an order sustaining demurrers to their individual complaints without leave to amend.

We find no error and affirm.

FACTS

Complaints were served in 2013.

In 2013, appellants' cases were deemed related. Later, they were consolidated. On August 14, 2014, defense counsel sent appellants' counsel a letter stating: "It is our understanding that you have served additional Summons[es] and Complaints on Defendants. . . . It is our belief that service is defective. Please

¹ "Appellants" refers collectively to: Joshua G. Johnson, Corey D. Jones, Henry Richardson, Scott Sullivan, Anthony Stokes, Ondina V. Richardson, Rueda Ringer, Veronica Scott, Harold J. Shofner, Morris Lawrence, Sr., Karen Taylor, Josephine Long-Zanders, William Craig White, William Joseph White, Jeanette Simpson, Charlotte Island, Kerry Island, Mildred Lawrence, Mechelle M. Lawrence, Dorothy Miller, Carl Edmond, Sr., Anthony Lankster, Michael J. Holmes, Carrie Jacobs, Ashley Taylor, Latrice Brownridge, Jacqueline Gaspard, Gladys R. Hoy, Michael Edmond, Curtesa D. Richardson, Willie Haynes, Alice Farr, Melvin Reeder Grigsby, Rosemary Donerson, Madelyn Andrews, Tamrya Allen, Gwendolyn Lankerster, Donald Edmond, Tabitha Gilmore, Elizabeth Lawrence, Hazel Lewis, Rex E. Manley, Scott Samuel, Carolyn Shofner-Hall, Beverly Simon, Patricia Simpson Lawrence, Carolyn Hawkins, Larry Hawkins, Herbert Lawrence, Nylas J. Long, Deborah White, Dolores White, Phyllis A. White, Pluscedia Williams, Leonis Word, Donna Brinson, Richard Gildersleeve, Latasha Henderson, Alfred Garner, Leon Stephens, Audrey Summerfield, Phyllis White, Marvin Liddell, Sr., and Forrest Washington.

provide copies of all Proofs of Service in which you contend service was effected.” In September 2014, appellants filed proofs of service indicating that on July 20, 2014, summonses, complaints, and amendments to the complaints were served on Deidra Burr, a purported agent for service of process for Double Rock.

In October 2014, appellants filed requests for entry of default.

On November 4, 2014, the matter came on for a trial setting conference. Counsel for both parties were present at the hearing. The ensuing minute order stated: “The [trial court] stays all requests for defaults until further order of the [trial court]. [¶] The [trial court] orders the parties to meet and confer regarding [the] merits of this case.”

More than a year and a half later, on October 28, 2016, Double Rock demurred to “63 complaints filed by counsel Barbara Jackson” on behalf of 63 of the appellants. At the same time, Double Rock separately demurred to the complaints filed by Forrest Washington and Marvin Liddell. The trial court sustained the demurrers without leave to amend.

Judgment was entered December 13, 2016.

This appeal followed.

DISCUSSION

Appellants challenge the trial court’s order staying the requests for entry of default. Though not clear, we glean that they seek a reversal of the judgment with directions to the trial court to strike the demurrers from the record and enter Double Rock’s default as to each of appellants’ complaints. They fail, however, to provide us with cogent analysis supported by relevant statutes or case law. Due to the absence of proper

argument, we deem the claim of error waived. This is consistent with the established law on waiver, which states: “[E]very brief should contain a legal argument with citation to authorities on the points made. If none is furnished on a particular point, the court may treat it as waived, and pass it without consideration.’ [Citation.] [¶] It is the duty of appellants’ counsel, not the courts, ‘by argument and the citation of authorities to show that the claimed error exists.’ [Citation.]” (*Sprague v. Equifax, Inc.* (1985) 166 Cal.App.3d 1012, 1050.)²

DISPOSITION

The judgment is affirmed. Double Rock is entitled to its costs on appeal.

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_____, J.
ASHMANN-GERST

We concur:

_____, P. J.
LUI

_____, J.
HOFFSTADT

² Double Rock moved for sanctions against appellants and their counsel for filing a frivolous appeal. Though this appeal lacks merit, we decline to award sanctions.